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'PIPPIN' EASILY ONE OF 2013'S BEST ALREADY {page 10}

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Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Appeals court to decide if Whitey's judge stays

- Mobster's lawyer argued yesterday to have judge removed
- Says judge worked in US Attorney's Office when Bulger was given immunity
- A panel will rule {page 02}

Wellbeing. Weight loss

▶ If your scale has ticked up since the holidays, don't sweat. Actually, we do want you to sweat! Our tips for shedding winter weight gain are in the pages ahead. {pages 12-13}

home

Furniture, as seen on TV

- If you like the couches on 'The Good Wife,' visit Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams {pages 18-19}

sports

Celtics jump in power rankings

- The Green are back in the top 15 while the Clippers hold down the No. 1 spot {page 15}

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Whitey's laywer: Integrity of judicial process depends on judge's removal

Whitey Bulger's lawyer takes fight to ouster trial judge before federal appeals court ◗ Judge worked in US Attorney's Office during Bulger era

Alleged mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger has yet to go to trial, but he is already taking his issues to the federal appeals court.

Bulger's lawyer, J. W. Carney Jr., argued before a panel of judges for the First Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday that the judge in Bulger's case should recuse himself.

"The trial must be overseen by a judge who is not connected to the most infamous period in federal law enforcement history in Boston," Carney told a group of reporters after presenting his argument to the judges. "The integrity of our federal judicial process depends on it."

Bulger, through Carney, has appealed District Court Judge Richard Stearns' decision not to recuse himself from the case. Bulger has claimed that he was given immunity by a former U.S. attorney and that Stearns' work in that office before he was appointed as a judge should be reason for him not to oversee Bulger's trial.

Zach Hafer, an assistant U.S. attorney, dismissed Bulger's immunity claim and said "there's no basis either factual or legal" that should prevent Stearns from presiding.

Hafer also called Bulger's claim of immunity "outlandish" and "unsupported."

Carney has refused to release the details of Bulger's claim of immunity and said those would be brought up during the trial when Bulger will testify.

Before Carney completed listing his reasons as to why Stearns should recuse himself, the panel of judges interrupted him when he brought up the immunity issue.

Judge Bruce Selya said Carney's inability to provide more information on his immunity claim may "undermine" parts of his argument.

A ruling is not likely for months.

Bulger is scheduled to go to trial in June.

Immunity time frame

During the arguments, Carney did reveal that Bulger was promised immunity sometime during or after the majority of his alleged murders were carried out. Pressed by Judge David Souter, Carney said Bulger was promised immunity sometime before 1984 but did not get more specific. Carney has previously said that former U.S. Attorney Jeremiah O'Sullivan, who died in 2009, was the one to promise the alleged mob boss immunity. The majority of the 19 murders that Bulger is accused of occurred before 1984.

Carney

Bulger

Perception an issue

Judge Bruce Selya said part of his concern in the appeal is "about the public confidence and the public perception."

Carney argued about the importance of the impartiality of the judge overseeing Bulger's trial: "The public interest in this case cannot be overstated. The corruption of public law enforcement in the 1980s cannot be ignored," Carney said. Federal law enforcement agencies had a stained reputation in Boston for years after it was learned that an FBI agent tipped off Bulger as he was about to be arrested and that the accused murderer had a working relationship with authorities.

Victims' families react to defense's removal request

After hearing the arguments, Tommy Donahue, whose father was killed allegedly by Bulger in 1982, said Carney made good points.

Donahue said he didn't want to see Stearns step down, unless it was going to delay the trial.

Quoted

"I don't want to see him step down, but if this is what is going to come of it, then he should step down. Let's get on with it."

DONAHUE

Michael Naughton
michael.naughton@metro.us

By the numbers

14

Two men were arrested in Quincy on Monday for allegedly receiving a package containing 14 pounds of hydro-marijuana worth about $50,000. A postal inspector suspected something was wrong with the heavily taped package and called in police, according to the Patriot Ledger. A drug dog picked up the scent and police arrested the men when they picked up the package. METRO

Today's local tweet

"This broad ran through a couple holdin hands like she was a linemen lmfao!!!! What ppl will do to catch the MBTA"

@LLCOORAY89, WHO WITNESSED FIRSTHAND HOW LOVE CAN'T CONQUER T RIDERS

Plane. Problems

▶ A Boeing 787 Dreamliner was towed back to the terminal yesterday after a fuel spill was reported.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Dreamliner issues at Logan Airport — once again

For the second time in as many days, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner plane had mechanical issues while at Logan Airport. The Japan Airlines flight to Toyko was set to take off around noon yesterday, but it was stopped when fuel began spilling from its wing, according to Massport. The airline posted a flight delay notice on its website that said the flight was postponed due to maintenance. It took off about four hours later. On Monday, a small fire broke out in the cargo area of another Dreamliner shortly after landing. No one was injured. METRO

News in brief

Menino talks Everett casino proposal

BOSTON. A vocal backer of a proposed Suffolk Downs casino, Boston mayor Tom Menino cast some shade on a competing casino proposal for a site in Everett and said yesterday he might have a say in how the Everett proposal moves forward.

After pro-casino candidates were roundly defeated in local Foxborough elections, casino magnate Steve Wynn dropped his plans for a casino tie-in with Gillette Stadium, and recently resurfaced with plans to build a casino in Everett. SHNS

46K

A roughly 46,000-square-foot lot along the development area falls within Boston's boundaries.

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Panhandler tries to outrun Transit Police at South Station

Transit Police on Monday night arrested a Boston man who they said was "aggressively panhandling" at South Station, but not without a good old fashioned foot chase.

Police said that around 9:30 p.m. they saw Ryan Ross, 28, trying to get money from women near Track 1 in the commuter rail section of South Station.

When they approached Ross, police said he gave them a false name and age before taking off on foot.

"He made it all the way to Beech and South streets, however the officers kept up step for step ... and apprehended him," Transit Police said in a statement.

According to police, Ross had warrants out of Quincy District Court for receiving stolen property and larceny from a building. METRO

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

▶ Flanked by sneakers bearing the Boston skyline, Mayor Thomas Menino yesterday announced that Converse will be moving its company headquarters to Boston.

Converse world headquarters moving to Hub

Shoe and apparel company Converse is moving its world headquarters to Boston, bringing with it more than 400 permanent jobs.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino made the announcement yesterday, calling Converse and Boston "a perfect marriage — two venerable and classic brands that are also constantly evolving."

"They say that wearing Converse makes a statement about a person. Well I want to say that Converse moving its world headquarters to Boston makes a statement about our city," Menino said.

Converse will lease approximately 187,000 square feet of new office space that will be created as part of the $230 million redevelopment of Lovejoy Wharf in Bulfinch Triangle.

The company is currently based in North Andover. The new headquarters are set to open on April 15.

METRO/MR

"The move to Lovejoy Wharf will revitalize this historic northern gateway, while giving Converse access to a young, talented and creative workforce."

MENINO

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In the news

▶ Patrick

Gov. Patrick pushes to freeze unemployment insurance rate

BOSTON. Gov. Deval Patrick yesterday filed legislation that aims to lower business costs and encourage job growth by freezing unemployment insurance rates for employers.

The legislation would block a scheduled $500 million increase in the amount businesses pay to cover benefits to unemployed workers.

The move is part of a series of reforms the Patrick-Murray Administration has proposed to make government work better.

"This common-sense legislation is good for businesses and good for the Commonwealth," said Patrick. "Our people need jobs, and these further measures will help employers create those jobs." METRO

Fishing boat sinks at Boston pier

BOSTON. A 55-foot fishing vessel capsized early Monday at its mooring in Boston Harbor.

The Miss Brielle was partially capsized when Coast Guard crews responded to Fish Pier at about 5 a.m., according to the Coast Guard.

There were no crew members aboard.

The Coast Guard crew found a light sheen on the surface of the water and deployed a containment boom.

Coast Guard officials are in contact with the vessel owner about cleanup. METRO

Ringing you up in style

Dropkick Murphys take a break from singing to do some CD slinging

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Dropkick Murphys members Jeff Darosa, right, and Matt Kelly show off their new album "Signed and Sealed in Blood," which went on sale yesterday.

Boston resident Bobby Phillips looked amused as he stepped up to the counter of the Newbury Comics store at Faneuil Hall Marketplace yesterday, probably because the two guys working the register personally made the music he was about to buy.

"I don't want to date myself, but I've been listening to their music forever," Phillips said of Dropkick Murphys, a hometown favorite that has been unleashing hard, high-energy music since 1996.

Band members split up and hit Newbury Comics locations across the state yesterday to promote the release of their eighth studio album, "Signed and Sealed in Blood."

Drummer Matt Kelly and guitarist Jeff DaRosa looked natural as they rang up customers and handed them their purchases.

Quoted

"Very few bands offer their fans the opportunity to get up close and personal and meet with them like this, so it's fantastic. I think the fans really appreciate it."

BOBBY PHILLIPS, A LONGTIME DROPKICK MURPHYS FAN

"I've washed a lot of dishes, but I've never done retail before," said DaRosa. "We're ringing people up and trying not to screw up."

Speaking about the band's new album, Kelly said fans can expect "some friggin' rock and roll. Just a bunch of jerks playing a bunch of good music."

DaRosa's take on the new album: "It's a lot more fun of an album than the last one, a lot more catchy. We wrote them with the idea of playing them live. ... By the second chorus, you're singing along."

After their stint at Newbury Comics, the band put on a free acoustic set at McGreevy's Irish Pub — but not after a hard day's work slinging CDs.

"We'll be at the register until they fire us," said DaRosa. "Or we get caught stealing."

Morgan Rousseau
morgan.rousseau@metro.us

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Former AIG building, NYC

AIG may join bailout lawsuit against US government

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON. American International Group Inc., the insurer rescued by the U.S. government in 2008 with a bailout that ultimately totaled $182 billion, drew angry condemnation yesterday after it said it may join a lawsuit against the government alleging the terms of the deal were unfair.

A leading congressional Democrat called criticism of the deal's terms "utterly ridiculous," and former New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who probed AIG when he was in office, called the prospect of a suit "insulting to the public."

The White House declined to comment on the potential for a lawsuit but defended the bailout. **REUTERS**

Wealth gap, debt top risks ahead of Davosn

LONDON. Fragile economies and extreme weather have combined to crank up the global risk dial in the past year, creating an increasingly dangerous mix, according to the World Economic Forum.

Despite Europe's avoidance of a euro breakup in 2012 and the United States stepping back from its fiscal cliff, business leaders and academics fear politicians are failing to address fundamental problems.

That is the conclusion of the group's Global Risks 2013 report, which surveyed more than 1,000 experts and industry bosses and found they were slightly more pessimistic about the outlook for the decade ahead than a year ago. **REUTERS**

"It reflects a loss of confidence in leadership from governments."

LEE HOWELL, THE WEF MANAGING DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPORT

Israel still muted over Obama's Pentagon pick

The Israeli government kept clear of a brewing battle in Washington over President Barack Obama's choice for defense secretary, Chuck Hagel, whose record on Iran and Israel is under scrutiny.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak offered no immediate comment on the pick, after being rumored for weeks during which some pro-Israel figures pilloried the former Republican senator.

Parting with the rightist government's reticence were two relatively junior officials, Civil Defence Minister Avi Dichter and Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, neither of whom is expected to stay on after Israel's national election on Jan. 22.

"There have already been nominations in the past which looked very troubling to us, and ultimately reality turned out totally differently, both for better and for worse," Dichter told Israel Radio in an interview.

"Therefore I think we should be careful. We do not nominate people in agencies in other countries in general, and especially in the United States. So, as it is customary to say to those being nominated there: Welcome."

Netanyahu, who is favored for reelection, has had a testy relationship with Obama, a Democrat who won a second term in November — though both insist their nations' alliance is sound.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said it hoped Hagel's appointment would change U.S. policy and make Washington "more respectful of the rights of nations." **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ President Obama shakes hands with former U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel during a personnel announcement at the White House on Monday.

US and Israel

Israel, which receives around $3 billion a year in U.S. defense grants, has at times challenged the Obama administration by threatening preemptive war against the disputed Iranian nuclear program while world powers pursue talks with Tehran.

Obama has also criticized the Netanyahu government's settlement of occupied West Bank land, which the Palestinians blame for the two-year-old impasse in negotiations with Israel. **REUTERS**

Sources: Obama eyeing Lew for Treasury secretary

President Barack Obama may choose White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew to replace Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner as soon as this week, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The selection of Lew would trigger a White House shuffle for Obama's second term as he replaces his chief of staff and moves senior aides into new roles, said the people, who requested anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

While President Obama hasn't made a final decision to pick Lew, the president's staff has been instructed to prepare for his nomination, said one of the people. **REUTERS**

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Horror of Aurora massacre recalled at court hearing

A 13-year-old girl caught in last summer's shooting rampage at a Colorado movie theater was heard frantically pleading for help in a tape of her emergency 911 call played in court on Tuesday.

In it, the girl could be heard desperately telling an emergency dispatcher that her 6-year-old cousin and cousin's pregnant mother had been struck by gunfire. The 6-year-old was the youngest of the 12 people killed in the attack. "My two cousins have been shot," she cries, as the dispatcher tries in vain to instruct the girl, whose name was not given, on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The recording was one of two 911 calls played in court during the preliminary hearing for James Holmes. REUTERS

"My two cousins have been shot."
MASSACRE SURVIVOR, 13

Giffords launches gun control lobby initiative

Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was severely wounded two years ago in an Arizona shooting, is launching a group aimed at curbing gun violence and raising enough money to challenge the well-funded gun lobby.

Giffords, starting the effort called Americans for Responsible Solutions with her husband former astronaut Mark Kelly, told ABC News that Congress must do more to prevent gun violence. The two are gun owners, but in the wake of a string of recent mass shootings, they said more must be done to push common-sense efforts to reduce such violence.

"Enough," Giffords, who was shot in the head while meeting with constituents in Tucson, Ariz., told ABC.

The initiative aims to "encourage elected officials to stand up for solutions to prevent gun violence and protect responsible gun ownership," the group said on its website, Americansforresponsiblesolutions.org.

It will push for background checks for private gun sales and look at ways to better address mental illness, among other efforts, Kelly told ABC.

Gifford's group is set to take on the National Rifle Association, which in 2011 spent more than 11 times more on lobbying than all gun control lobbyists combined. REUTERS

IDA MAE ASTUTE/ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES

▶ In this image provided by ABC, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, talk to Diane Sawyer about the need for changes in gun control laws.

Quoted

"Until now, the gun lobby's political contributions ... have dwarfed spending from anti-gun violence groups. No longer."
GIFFORDS, IN A WRITTEN OPINION PIECE PUBLISHED IN USA TODAY

Texas, Ohio teachers get free gun training

Schoolteachers in Texas and Ohio are flocking to free firearms classes in the wake of the Connecticut elementary school massacre, some vowing to protect their students with guns even at the risk of losing their jobs. REUTERS

200

Ohio and Texas are not the first to offer no-cost arms training to teachers. Just days after the Connecticut mass murder, some 200 teachers in Utah underwent free instruction from gun activists.

400

Texas: In Texas, an $85 concealed handgun license (CHL) course offered at no cost to teachers filled 400 spots immediately, forcing the school to offer another class, one instructor said.

900

Ohio: More than 900 teachers, administrators and school employees asked to take part in the Buckeye Firearms Association's newly created, three-day gun training program.

The Buckeye Firearms Association is offering educators free admission to "an intensive three-day class where you will learn many of the same skills and tactics used by first responders."

Is Your Child Overweight?

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Lack of evidence in Benghazi; NRA to meet VP

Not enough evidence

▶ A vehicle and the surrounding area are engulfed in flames after it was set on fire inside the U.S. consulate compound in Benghazi late on Sept. 11, 2012.

GETTY IMAGES

Tunisia frees man held over attack on US consulate in Libya

TURKEY. Tunisia has freed, for lack of evidence, a Tunisian man who had been suspected of involvement in an Islamist militant attack in Libya last year in which the U.S. ambassador was killed, his lawyer said yesterday.

▶ Stevens

Ali Harzi was one of two Tunisians named in October by the Daily Beast as having been detained in Turkey over the violence in which Christopher Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, and three other American officials were killed.

"The judge decided to free Harzi and he is free now," lawyer Anouar Awled Ali told Reuters. "The release came in response to our request to free him for lack of evidence and after he underwent the hearing with American investigators as a witness in the case."

A Tunisian justice ministry spokesman confirmed the release of Harzi but declined to elaborate.

A month ago, Harzi refused to be interviewed by visiting U.S. FBI investigators over the Sept. 11 assault on the U.S. consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi.

The Daily Beast reported that shortly after the attacks began, Harzi posted an update on an unspecified social media site about the fighting. **REUTERS**

Fatal crash

Helicopter crashes in Peru, killing all seven aboard

LIMA. A helicopter carrying seven people crashed in Peru's Amazon jungle on Monday and all aboard perished, a judicial official said on Monday.

Corpac, Peru's air transport agency, said the helicopter was operated by the local unit of U.S.-based Columbia Helicopters. Columbia is known for its tandem rotor heavy-lift aircraft used in logging and oil exploration work. Columbia's Lima office declined to comment.

Marco Ochoa, the judicial official, said five U.S. citizens and two Peruvians were on the helicopter and that rescue crews were recovering their bodies.

Local media reports said the people onboard worked for Petrominerales Ltd., a Canadian-based oil exploration firm focused on Latin America. Petrominerales' Lima office declined to comment. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Peru's Amazon jungle

Gun control

NRA is among groups to meet Biden this week

WASHINGTON. The powerful U.S. gun lobby, the National Rifle Association, is slated to meet with Vice President Joe Biden as he considers recommendations on how to respond to a mass shooting last month in Newtown, Conn., the White House said yesterday.

After the Newtown school shooting, which President Barack Obama called the worst day of his presidency, he asked Biden to come up with a broad range of ideas to curb gun violence, ideas he will unveil in his annual State of the Union address, traditionally given in late January.

Obama has said he wants new gun control measures passed during the first year of his second term, but gun control is a divisive issue in the United States, where the right to bear arms is enshrined in the Constitution. **REUTERS**

Give peace a chance

Afghan peace efforts show flickers of life

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD. President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai will discuss matters of war, including future U.S. troop levels and Afghanistan's army, when they meet on Friday, but matters of peace may be the most delicate item on their long agenda.

After nearly 10 months in limbo, tentative reconciliation efforts involving Taliban insurgents, the Karzai government and other major Afghan factions have shown new signs of life, resurrecting tantalizing hopes for a negotiated end to decades of war.

Pakistan, which U.S. and Afghan officials have long accused of backing the insurgents and meddling in Afghanistan, has recently signaled an apparent policy shift toward promoting its neighbor's stability as most U.S. combat troops prepare to depart, top Pakistani and Afghan officials said. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Karzai

Samsung on the rise

Samsung on track to become top home appliances maker

GETTY IMAGES

LAS VEGAS. South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. said it is on course to achieve its goal of becoming the world's top home appliances maker by 2015, with sales growing an estimated 50 percent by then.

Samsung Electronics, which makes more chips, flat-screens, handsets and TVs than any of its competitors — including the world's best-selling smartphone — is aiming to boost its home appliance segment and narrow the gap with companies including Whirlpool Corp. and Electrolux AB.

Analysts estimate Samsung Electronics earned around 13 trillion won ($12 billion) last year from home appliances, part of the firm's consumer electronics arm. **REUTERS**

50% Estimated growth sales for Samsung by 2015

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

How #Cut4Bieber became a thing

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Don't drink the Kool-Aid, Beliebers!

Justin Bieber fans are a devoted, if gullible, group.

On Monday night, the false hashtag #Cut4Bieber began trending on Twitter. Just what did "#Cut4Bieber" mean, exactly? Good question. Turns out it was a malicious stunt by the Internet hive mind 4Chan. "Lets start a cut yourself for bieber campaign," an anonymous user initially wrote before the thread was deleted, according to Billboard. "Tweet a bunch of pics of people cutting themselves and claim we did it because bieber was smoking weed. See if we can get some little girls to cut themselves."

The anonymous poster's rationale? That dedicated Beliebers should cut themselves in order to get Bieber's attention in response to his recent alleged bad-boy behavior. (The site has done such a stunt before. In October they started a #Bald4Bieber trend, asking fans to shave their heads for Bieber, who they said had been diagnosed with cancer.)

If only 4Chan could channel 14-year-old girl angst for good. Like: "Let's trick a bunch of Beliebers into recycling for Justin! #Recycle4Justin" Or: "You know what's a great way to get Justin's attention? Listening to your parents and studying for your SATs. #Study4Justin."

Sadly, I don't think that will happen.

Osbourne responds to the haters

Kelly Osbourne has worked hard to slim down — but she's learning that for some naysayers, nothing she does is good enough. "I'm the thinnest I've ever been and the healthiest I've ever been. The totally insane thing is that I'm a U.K. size 4 to 6 and people still say I'm fat," she tells Fabulous magazine. "I get called fat all the time. A big fat whore."

What's most surprising is that much of the vitriol comes from fans of one of the biggest opponents of bullying and negativity. "**Lady Gaga**'s fans are the worst," Osbourne says. "They've said I should kill myself, that they hope I get raped. I mean it's crazy, but I've had this all my life and I just try and ignore it."

Who you calling fat?

Talking points

Pitt will return to China?

Brad Pitt is causing a stir in China over speculation that he may be visiting the country, despite having been banned after starring in the film "Seven Years in Tibet." Pitt joined the new Chinese social-networking site, Sina Weibo, earlier this week and started off with the post, "It is the truth. Yup, I am coming..." according to The Associated Press. The item was soon deleted, but not before more 160,000 new users started following the star on the site.

▶ In 1997 Brad Pitt hit the "Seven Years in Tibet"premiere. So pretty.

Swift is single yet again

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with One Direction member **Harry Styles** appears to be over, as Swift left their romantic getaway in the British Virgin Islands early after a reportedly heated argument with Styles, according to Business Insider. But while photos of Swift looking glum and lonely on her trip back hit the Internet, Styles apparently wasn't too broken up about the breakup. "**Richard Branson** heard Harry was staying nearby [and] invited him to come check out Necker [Island]," a source says. "So when Taylor left for the States, Harry went to Branson's island for the day to let off some steam. He did plenty of partying and was definitely enjoying himself while hanging out with guests."

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Rosie O'Donnell wants a snack, Rose McGowan is well-rested, Roseanne Barr supports Justin Bieber's alleged marijuana use and Albert Brooks doesn't like what he's hearing out of Washington.

@Rosie
Watching the biggest loser makes me want to eat cheesecake

@rosemcgowan
I slept from Saturday night at 2 am to Monday at noon.

@TheRealRoseanne
hey @JustinBeiber -we will give up our joints when they pry them out our cold dead fingers!

@AlbertBrooks
Dear United States: Please don't make a trillion dollar coin to get out of your problems.

McGowan

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TV watch list

JORDIN ALTHAUS/FOX

▶ Actress Alexandra Paul prepares for a dive during "Stars in Danger: The High Dive."

'Stars in Danger: The High Dive'

SPECIAL. Latching onto the popularity of the summer Olympics — or simply desperate to fill a hole in the dreary winter schedule before "American Idol" premieres — Fox presents this D-list reality competition that puts celebrities such as "Jersey Shore" star JWoww and Kim and Kyle Richards of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" in a pool — but not to test their tanning skills. The challengers train and compete in both solo and synchronized diving events. Really.
8 p.m., Fox

The People's Choice Awards

SPECIAL. Don't agree with the Golden Globe nominees? You get your say in this annual fan-voted pop culture party that hands out trophies in categories like Favorite On-Screen Chemistry.
9 p.m., CBS

'Washington Heights'

REALITY. MTV focuses its lens (way) uptown to chronicle a group of 20-somethings with big dreams in Manhattan.
Series premiere, 10 p.m., MTV

'Modern Family'

COMEDY. Billy Dee Williams saves Jay's family trip to Palm Springs over New Year's Eve. Lando would be so proud.
9 p.m., ABC

AMBER RAY

Flippin' over 'Pippin'

ART's latest is headed to Broadway this spring ◗ This won't come as a surprise to anyone who sees what Diane Paulus has done with this musical

It was unsurprising when the American Repertory Theater that announced its current production, "Pippin," was heading to Broadway this spring. Few who see it will expect anything less than a shelf full of trophies for director Diane Paulus and company in the upcoming award season.

Paulus collaborated with Gypsy Snider of the circus troupe Les 7 Doigts de la Main and choreographer Chet Walker for this revival of the Stephen Schwartz musical. The result is an unprecedented theatrical spectacle.

Normally, incredible gymnastic feats and contortions would be a distraction for a sweet story like "Pippin." But this troupe has found a balance that makes it so seamless you'd swear the aerialists and jugglers were in the original script.

MICHAEL J. LUTCH

▶ It's impossible to avoid being lured into the dangerously enticing web of Patina Miller, front, in "Pippin."

Though the score boasts musical theater staples like "Corner of the Sky" and "Magic to Do," it's the contagious enthusiasm of the ensemble that wins over the crowd. It's impossible to avoid being lured into the dangerously enticing web of Patina Miller as she dazzles the room as Leading Player.

Andrea Martin nearly stops the show with a riotous rendition of "No Time at All" while Terrence Mann is perfectly imperious as Charles. Matthew James Thomas is charming and engaging in the title role, while Charlotte d'Amboise lights up the stage as Fastrada. And in a mere moment, young Andrew Cekala as Theo delivers the "wow" that solidifies the magic of "Pippin."

Nick Dussault
nick.dussault@metro.us

If you go

▶ **'Pippin'**
Through Jan. 20
American Repertory Theater
64 Brattle St., Cambridge
$25-$100, 617-547-8300
www.american repertorytheater.org

'Pippin' history

"Pippin," the nine-time Tony Award-winning story of a boy on the brink of adulthood searching for fulfillment in life, premiered on Broadway in 1972. Its original ending was modified 10 years ago.

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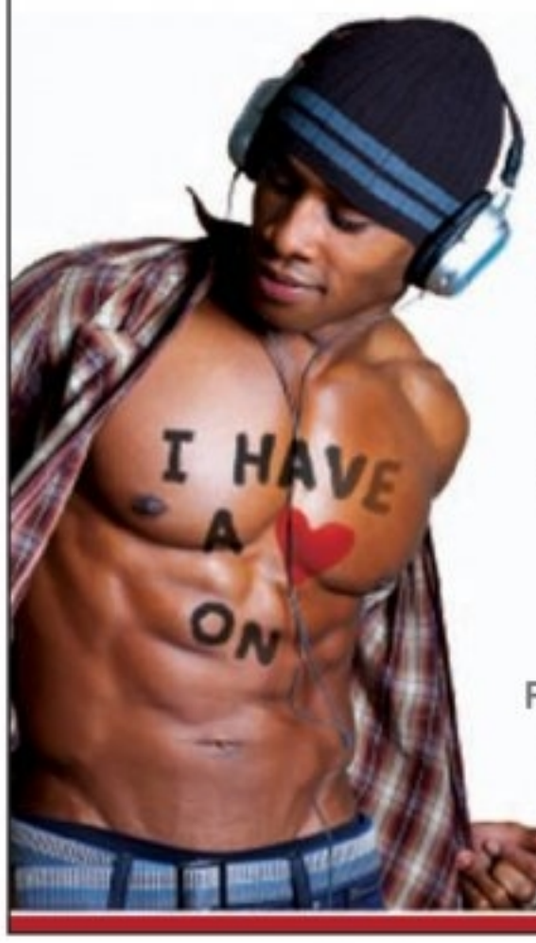

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Need a hug? Maybe a few 'likes' will suffice. Why Facebook posts make us feel less lonely

The simple act of posting a status update on Facebook can make you feel more connected, researchers have found — even if no one pays attention to your update.

The study, conducted by the Universitat Berlin, focused on the Facebook posts of 100 student volunteers at the University of Arizona over the course of a week.

The students were asked to do two things: fill out forms assessing their mental health throughout the week, and post to Facebook more than they normally would. A control group wrote exactly their regular amount of updates.

If you're expecting some cathartic, joyful end to the experiment, you'll be disappointed. The students posting more updates were still as cheerful or as depressed at the end of the week as they were at the beginning. But they did feel less lonely than the control group, experiencing a shift in their sense of connectedness. Whether those posts got any comments didn't matter. Simply posting more often reduced alienation, regardless of how much actual social interaction they'd had during the week.

▶ "Maybe I should post something about this cup of coffee."
VALUELINE

Seeking to explain this phenomenon, the researchers compared posting quick Facebook updates to quick hits of food. "Similar to a snack temporarily reducing hunger until the next meal, social snacking may help tolerate the lack of 'real' social interaction for a certain amount of time," the Berlin team wrote in the journal Social Psychological and Personality Science.

CHRIS TAYLOR FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

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theater & arts guide

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SKINNY FOODS FOR 2013

Looking for creative and slimming ways to fulfill your New Year's resolution or shed that holiday padding? Here are some tasty bites that will help you stay full and satisfied while enhancing your weight-loss efforts.

Advice

JOY BAUER

HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPERT FOR THE 'TODAY' SHOW AND NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

www.joybauer.com

Looking for creative and slimming ways to fulfill your New Year's resolution or shed that holiday padding? Here are some tasty bites that will help you stay full and satisfied while enhancing your weight-loss efforts.

Coleslaw mix: Bags of shredded cabbage mix make it easy to get in a few more servings of veggies, since the prep work is done for you. Use the mix to throw together a lightened-up coleslaw using nonfat Greek yogurt in place of mayo. Or, get a head start on dinner by sauteing a bag with other veggies, like sliced mushrooms and bell peppers, for a simple, filling stir-fry base.

Nonfat Greek yogurt: A container of plain, nonfat Greek yogurt has about 100 calories and twice as much hunger-squashing protein as traditional yogurt. Doctor up tangy, plain yogurt with skinny stir-ins like fresh fruit, vanilla extract or ground cinnamon.

Pumpkin puree: Once a seasonal ingredient used almost exclusively in fall desserts, pumpkin puree is now a year-round skinny food. It's low in calories (just 40 per ½ cup), high in filling fiber and super convenient. Stir a big dollop into nonfat vanilla yogurt to create a pudding-like treat, or mix it into oatmeal or marinara sauce to add nutrition and fill-power.

BRAND X PICTURES

Spaghetti squash: Swap calorie- and carb-heavy pasta with light and delicious spaghetti squash. It forks into long strands that you eat just like noodles, but contains just 40 calories per cup. Toss yours with a low-cal sauce, like marinara or creamy part-skim ricotta cheese. You can save up to 500 calories per meal every time you make this swap.

Vinegar: Add zing to your meals for minimal calories. For a low-salt dressing that won't bring on the bloat, top your salad with unlimited vinegar and one or two dashes of olive oil. And don't stop with greens. Drizzle balsamic over roasted veggies, feature fruit-flavored vinegars (like fig) in low-cal marinades for chicken or tofu and brighten up winter soups with a splash of red wine vinegar just before serving.

STOCKBYTE

▶ Freeze some grapes for a tasty sorbet-like treat.

Frozen grapes

Frozen grapes are the perfect low-cal solution for dieters who can't live without dessert. You can enjoy one full cup of these refreshing, bite-sized nibbles for only 100 calories — a phenomenally sweet bargain. And, because the grapes are frozen solid, they take a while to eat, stretching out your snack time. I think these scrumptious gems taste just like icy fruit sorbet!

—For more weight loss tips, visit JoyBauer.com and follow Joy on Facebook and Twitter (@joybauer).

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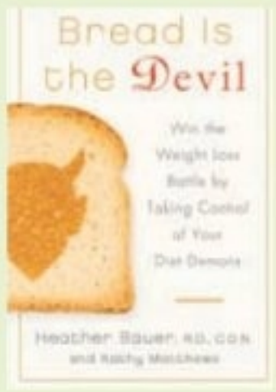
Nutrition

Peculiar proposals for pinching pounds

We're all about maintaining a healthy diet and exercise regimen. But if you're struggling with yours, these new books promise weight loss via less conventional rules.

The 8-Hour Diet

David Zinczenko with Peter Moore
The latest from the former Men's Health editor-in-chief says it's OK to eat whatever you want (and however much of it you want) — as long it's during a specific window of time.



The Parisian Diet

Dr. Jean-Michael Cohen
Dr. Cohen is touted as France's foremost nutrition expert, and here he debunks the popular myth that French people don't get fat — they've just developed winning weight-loss strategies. He advocates following their way of life — long, lingering meals and indulging from time to time — to reach your goals.

Bread is the Devil

Heather Bauer, R.D., C.D.N and Kathy Matthews
Don't judge the title: You can eat bread! But just not white bread (or cookies and candy), which fall under the Satanic label here. The authors walk you through a plan for identifying and overcoming your own diet derailers in their book, now in paperback.

The Plan

Lyn-Genet Recitas
Author Lyn-Genet Recitas says that some foods traditionally thought to be healthy, like oatmeal and salmon, could actually cause you to get heavier. She believes certain ingredients cause inflammation and lead to weight gain.

MEREDITH ENGEL

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Letters

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Conservatives have middle-class tax rate in their corner

RE: "DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE RICH" (METRO, JAN. 7) I couldn't agree more with letter writer Chris St. Louis. For all the blaming and partisan demagoguery that liberals, especially President Obama, have toward former president George W. Bush, they seem perfectly fine with the middle class tax rate that our 43rd president set during his first term. This is an unmentioned yet decisive victory for conservatives. But of course, most Democrats stick to the one thing they are good at — misrepresenting the ideas of those they disagree with. Rather than give President Bush and Republicans praise for lowering middle class tax rates to a rate that both parties consistently agree on, Democrats and liberals push the misleading talking points about the rich who don't pay their fair share when every official government website release (IRS, CBO, OMB) shows the rich actually provide most of the nation's tax revenue. The middle class is such a huge voting block that Democrats wouldn't think of asking the middle class to pay their fair share, much like Democrats in the 1950s wouldn't think of asking the huge voting block of southern whites to desegregate. Right or wrong, Democrats generally support whatever they believe will get them the most votes; the history of the Democratic Party is littered with almost every epitaph they unfairly label Republicans with today. **KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL**

Somebody should tell Chris St. Louis that it was, in fact, George W. Bush — not Barack Obama — who handed out the first bailout/stimulus checks. If he doesn't believe that, tell him to look it up. **BRUCE A. BENNETT, VIA E-MAIL**

Quoted

"About Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's baby: I predict it will become a new series on Bravo, with the delivery filmed in 3-D for IMAX. The public can't get enough of either of them. I won't be watching."

BILL EASLEY, VIA E-MAIL, RE: "THE BIG BABY REVEAL: A CELEB RETROSPECTIVE" (METRO, JAN. 8)

Quoted

"There is no room to further slow down our subway trains; they are already among the slowest in the world. Crippling the service by significantly slowing it down is not the way to ensure public safety."

AARON BERKOVICH, ON PROPOSALS TO SLOW DOWN NYC'S SUBWAYS AFTER A RASH OF DEATHS ON TRACKS

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.**
None among your group of friends will have a knack for organizing like yours. Appoint yourself director and start putting some plans together that everyone will enjoy.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.**
That burning feeling in your ears is likely to be due to so many friends saying nice things about you. You have more boosters than you think.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.**
When socializing, don't merely mingle with people looking for polite chitchat – circulate with persons whom you can learn from.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.**
A coveted goal can be achieved if you're willing to work for it. Put aside any trivial endeavors and go for that special something that you've wanted for a long time.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.**
Generally, it's wise to avoid discussions on religion and/or politics, but if a friend should offer a fresh perspective you might be interested.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.**
This might be the day to put an idea to the test regarding a financial arrangement. The least you could do is try it out; the payoff could be substantial if things work out.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.**
Conditions that influence you both physically and mentally can be exceptionally harmonious if you handle things in a warm, friendly manner. Play life light and easy.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.**
When you expend your energies on labors of love, you'll be amazed at how much you can accomplish and the enjoyment you'll derive from the process. You deserve such a day.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.**
After being subjected to a couple of hectic days, you're entitled to let yourself go and relax a little. You don't need any social fanfare — just time alone with your special one.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.**
You should take prospective clients to your favorite haunt rather than to a fancy place. You'll achieve more in a convivial, homey atmosphere.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.**
Having too structured a schedule might find you much too restless and champing at the bit. Leave yourself some space in which to move about and be able to do as your impulses direct.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.**
Friends or relatives who truly believe in you could serve as a springboard to success. Their suggestions on how to handle your troubles should take the strain off.

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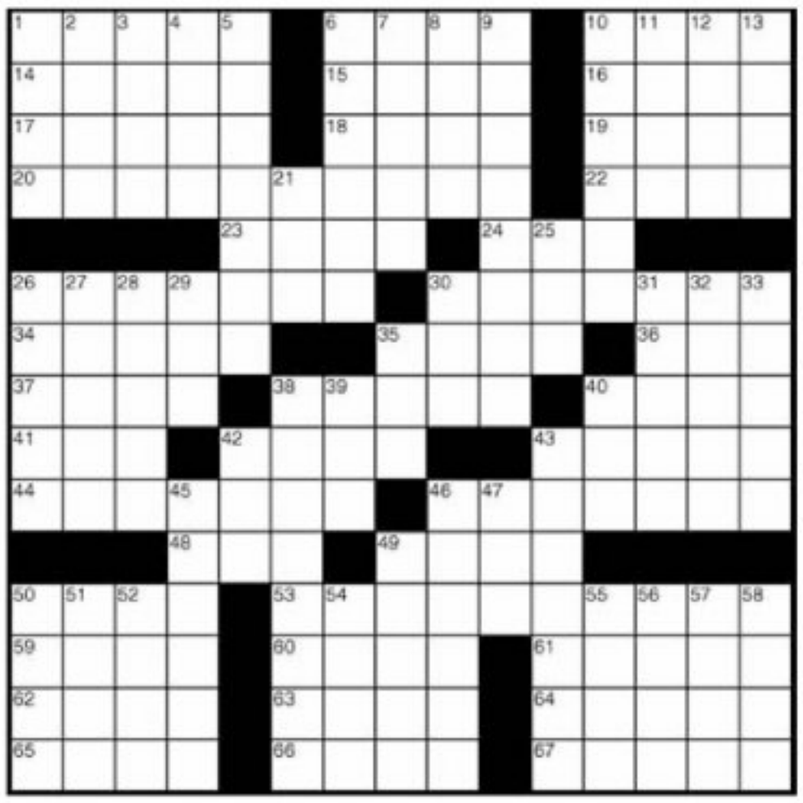

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16 Employee
17 Jousting weapon
18 Hard up
19 Statuesque model
20 Navigation aid
22 Olin or Horne
23 Speak highly
24 Comrade
26 K2's superior
30 Grasshopper
34 Casual wear
35 Onetime Trevi Fountain coins
36 Fish-to-be
37 Plumbing problem
38 Come as a ghost
40 Statistics
41 PC key
42 Freighter hazard
43 Prickly pear
44 Back off
46 Most uncouth
48 ABA member
49 Type of synthesizer
50 Low voice
53 Hard to do (2 wds.)
59 Cast-of-thousands movie
60 Garden tool
61 Gauguin's prop
62 Whodunit terrier
63 Beyond
64 Not here
65 Hull bottom
66 Frontier, once
67 Soft leather

Down
1 Talk up
2 Kyrgyzstan range
3 "Get the — of"
4 Need a scratch
5 Ladybugs
6 Renege (2 wds.)
7 Not in a whisper
8 Some August people
9 Anterior
10 Quaker State burg, slangily
11 Hoarfrost
12 Where Tabriz is
13 TV warrior princess
21 Possesses
25 Devoured
26 Kind of statesman
27 Doggerel
28 Oust
29 Jag
30 Aunts and uncles
31 Put on a sarong
32 Specks
33 Passed out cards
35 Wheel nut
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39 Gallery display
40 Pentagon grp.
42 Casino action
43 Prospectors' finds
45 Mischievous one
46 Hidden
47 Clark or Orbison
49 Invents
50 Toucan feature
51 Cathedral part
52 Web locale
54 Gutter locale
55 Waikiki's island
56 "Gotcha!" (2 wds.)
57 Bookish type
58 Merriment

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

1						4	9	2
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					7	8		3
	4	5						
2		1			4	3	5	
8	3	6						4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Metro's NBA power rankings | by Jimmy Toscano

GETTY IMAGES

1 CLIPPERS (27-8)
The two-game slide is a thing of the past, as the Clippers beat the "other" team from Los Angeles and then got revenge on the Warriors over the weekend. California is theirs for the taking. For that matter, so is the rest of the NBA.

2 HEAT (23-9)
It's looking more and more like the Heat-stern Conference and not the Eastern Conference every week. Okay, lame joke, but you get the idea.

3 THUNDER (26-8)
The Thunder lost in stunning fashion to the Wizards on Monday night. Lucky for OKC, they won't have to face Washington in the NBA Finals. Like, ever.

4 SPURS (27-10)
According to Elias, Tim Duncan has the highest winning percentage (.715) among 105 players in NBA history who have played in at least 1,000 games.

5 WARRIORS (22-11)
Andrew Bogut (ankle) is "coming along really well," and it's becoming certain that shipping out Monta Ellis was the right call.

6 KNICKS (23-11)
I'm going to watch what I say here, simply because I don't want Carmelo Anthony showing up at my bus stop tomorrow morning.

7 GRIZZLIES (22-10)
There are reports out there that say Memphis is looking to trade scoring machine Rudy Gay. That would be a bold move for a team that appears close to title contention.

8 HAWKS (20-10)
GM Danny Ferry gave the tape of Rajon Rondo's "bump" of an official to the officiating crew last Saturday. Yup, Ferry was THAT guy in school. Nobody liked THAT guy.

9 PACERS (20-14)
Like the Bulls, the Pacers are playing well enough without their star (Danny Granger) to pose issues for lots of teams down the stretch.

10 ROCKETS (20-14)
Count the Rockets as one of the biggest surprise teams this season. GM Daryl Morey is committed to bringing in a superstar this offseason.

11 BULLS (19-13)
The good news: Chicago has won three in a row. The better news: Derrick Rose has started to take some contact in his workouts.

12 NUGGETS (20-16)
As it stands today, Denver is the No. 8 seed in the West. As good as the Clips are, they wouldn't be thrilled to see Denver. Denver has played just 13 home games so far this year.

13 BLAZERS (19-15)
Portland is 4-1 to start the new year, but just how real are they? We're about to find out, as Portland is set to play the Heat, Warriors and Thunder. Going 1-2 there is a realistic goal.

14 NETS (19-15)
Maybe it really was Avery Johnson's fault. The Nets were 5-1 under interim coach P.J. Carlesimo heading into last night's game with Philly.

15 CELTICS (17-17)
Are the Celtics the team we saw through the first 31 games or the team we've seen through the last three? We're leaning more toward the last three, but they've got much more to prove.

16 JAZZ (13-12)
Rough times for Jazz players with the last name "Williams." Mo Williams had thumb surgery, while Marvin Williams is out a few games due to right-knee inflammation.

17 BUCKS (12-10)
Scott Skiles is the latest head coach to hit the unemployment line. Milwaukee and Skiles parted ways yesterday, and that's not such a bad thing for Skiles.

18 T'WOLVES (15-15)
More bad news for Minnesota on the injury front, with Kevin Love refracturing a bone in his right hand. This after Ricky Rubio missed all that time.

19 76ERS (12-12)
They beat the Lakers on New Year's Day but since lost to the Suns and were blown out by OKC and San Antonio. Speaking of "blowouts," Andrew Bynum just got a new idea for a hair style.

ON TV TODAY
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7:30 p.m., CSN

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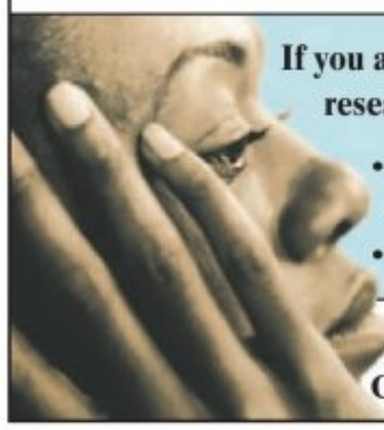

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at home with metro

Growing to great lengths

▶ No, this isn't a scene from "The Good Wife."

▶ For the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams on Berkeley Street, a new year means a lot of new space ▶ The brand's spring/summer collection arrives next month

▶ "Currently, Mitchell and Bob are very much inspired by the 1970s."

Steve Elbaz, left, and Andrew Terrat are ready for 2013 interior design needs.

For the better part of last fall, the windows of the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams store on Berkeley Street were covered with giant posters of an extra-long sofa that read, "We're Growing to Great Lengths." They weren't kidding. By year's end, a grand reopening party revealed top-to-bottom renovations had expanded the store by 6,000 square feet, more than doubling the display space.

"It feels brand new because it is," says Andrew Terrat, who co-owns the store with Steven Elbaz under a licensing agreement with brand co-founders Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams. Elbaz and Terrat have another showroom in Natick, too.

If you go

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
142 Berkeley St., Boston
617-266-0075
www.mitchellgoldboston.com

"Our goal in the store is to re-create what people see in the catalogue. After eight years' experience, we know all the tricks to get in as much furniture as possible. Now, we have twice as much space."

The added room came from a defunct gym on the lower level. Connecting the two meant adding a beautiful staircase. Upheaval is nothing new, though. Twice a year the store is emptied and refilled with new collections. In February, Spring/Summer 2013 arrives.

"There are new colors, new sofa frames and new styles," says Terrat. "Currently, Mitchell and Bob are very much inspired by the 1970s. There's lots of references like ultra shag carpet, nubby fabrics, chrome and big, bold patterns.

"It's a brand with a lot of personality," adds Terrat. "Mitchell and Bob are real people. Our furniture is built for wear. It's designed with comfort in mind. It feels great as well as looking good. We love it when people come in and slump down on a sofa. We encourage it. It's why we're here."

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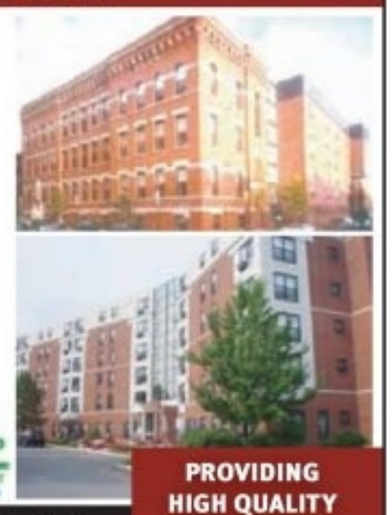

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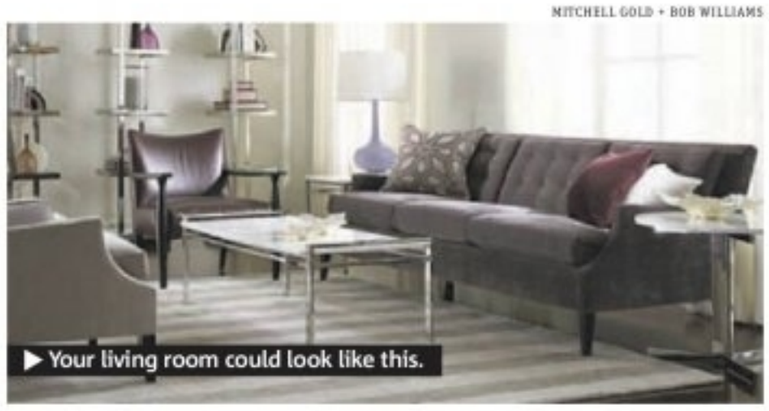

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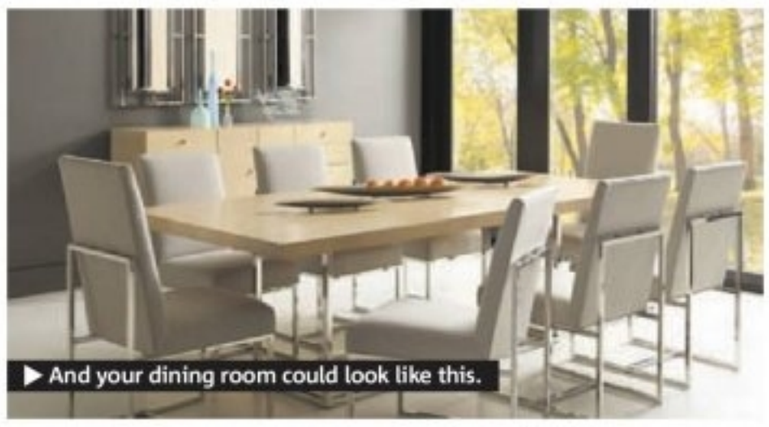

▶ And your dining room could look like this.

Good promo from 'The Good Wife'

Creating the furniture for the TV show "The Good Wife" is among the many design duties that Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams undertake outside their stores, which now actually carry a "Good Wife" collection.

"It's funny, really, because people will come into the store and recognize things from the show," says Terrat. "But, also I'll be watching TV and I'll see something and I think, 'That's our chair!'"

Linda Laban
linda.laban@metro.us

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By Attorney George Warshaw

Is your home or investment property being over-assessed by the city? Are your property taxes are too high?

Every January, municipalities that have a quarterly payment plan (like Boston) announce new tax rates and new assessed values of homes and investment properties.

If your property was overvalued you can file for an abatement. The question that you must answer in your application is what your property was worth on January 1, 2012 (one year ago). Your real estate broker is often a great resource of information.

Abatement applications in cities and towns that bill quarterly must usually be submitted by February 1st (be sure to check your town). In order to be eligible for an abatement – and this is critical – all property taxes due by February 1st (including any past due) must be paid by that date.

Once an abatement application is submitted, the city or town has a specific period of time to accept your valuation, make a compromise or reject it. Many applications, especially in Boston, are rejected merely because the city runs out of manpower to process all the applications.

If an application is rejected, all is not lost. A property owner still has a right to appeal to the Appellate Tax Board and begin a legal proceeding. © 2013 George Warshaw.

George Warshaw is a well-known attorney and author. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts, and estate plans. George welcomes new clients and questions. Contact him at metro@warshawlaw.com.

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